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1972/01/28

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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January 28, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER HK

SUBJECT: Information Items

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

Paris Talks: Our side presented its 8-point plan. It was denounced, but not rejected, by the other side which claimed the plan was unclear in respect to withdrawals and U.S. air and naval attacks. Both Communist spokesmen indicated their remarks were preliminary in nature and they would have more to say later.

The 8-point plan was presented by Ambassador Lam. Ambassador Porter explained that once overall agreement in principle is reached on the plan, we are willing to begin implementation of the troop withdrawal and prisoner aspects while negotiations on other aspects continued. He added that troop withdrawals would not be completed before a final agreement was signed on all aspects.

The Communist side denounced the 8-point plan, but stopped short of rejecting it. Xuan Thuy charged that the plan "does not clearly specify which forces will be withdrawn," nor is it clear that the plan meets all the withdrawal criteria in the "7-point" proposal and will end U.S. air and naval activities in Vietnam. Both spokesmen attacked the election provision as a U.S. effort to keep its "puppet administration" in power.

Xuan Thuy criticized your publicizing the private meetings. He also indicated that your speech and the 8-point plan were an election maneuver and a "smokescreen" to cover Vietnamization and intensification of the war. As usual, both spokesmen insisted that the "7 points" provide the correct solution of the war. Both also indicated they will have more to say on our plan and your speech.

In rebuttal, Ambassador Lam defended the election proposals. Ambassador Porter, in answering Thuy, said withdrawal includes U.S. personnel, arms, and bases in South Vietnam. He also

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E.O. 12356, Sect. 3.4
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By NARA, Date 9/16/93
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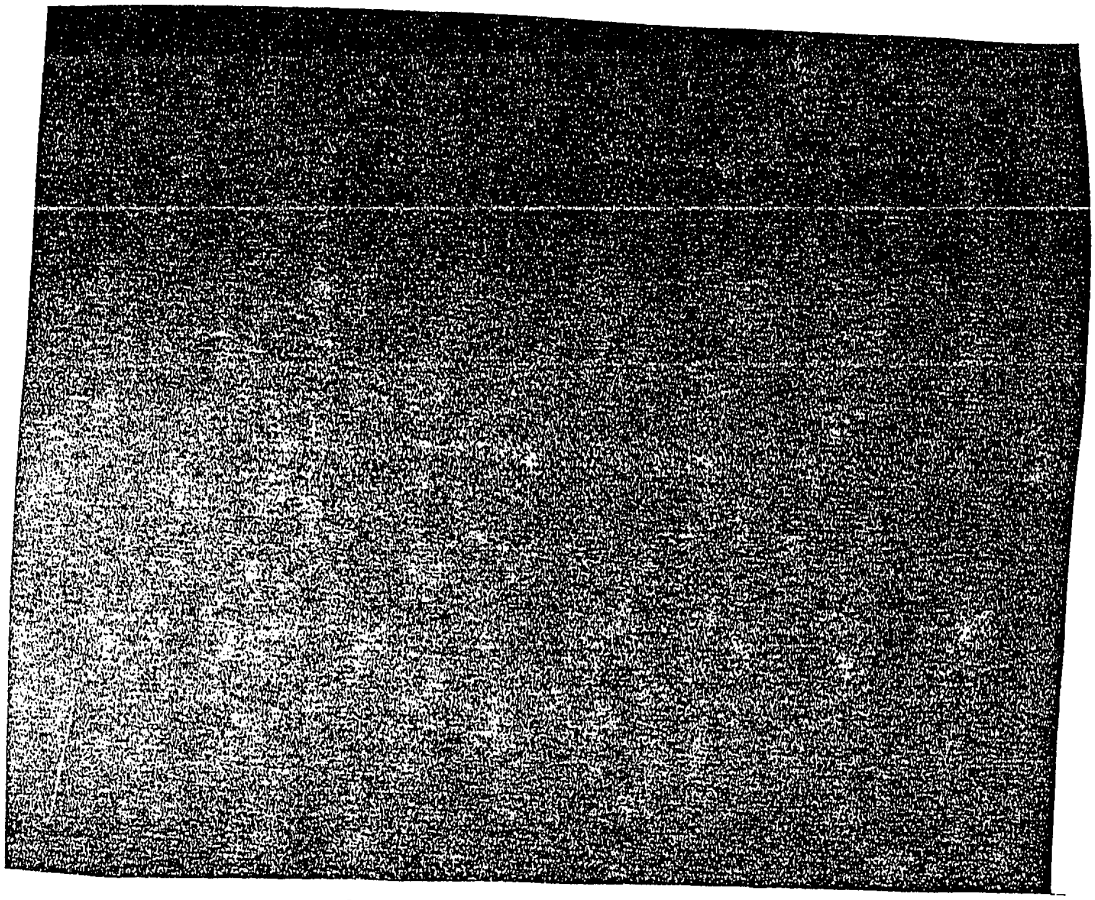
pointed out that U.S. air and naval attacks are covered in our point 6 on cease-fire. In respect to elections, he cited the plan's specific assurances of U.S. non-intervention.

In reference to revealing the private talks, Ambassador Porter stated that "the difficulty arose when you broke off the secret meetings while giving the impression publicly that we had not responded to your...proposals." (Thuy later disputed this claiming that he was willing to meet with us, on November 20, despite Tho's illness, but we cancelled the meeting.) Porter then tried to sound out the other side on specific aspects of our new plan but received no further response.

The two sides agreed to meet again next week.